

***Statement***  
***Insurance Association of Connecticut***

Labor and Public Employees Committee

March 1, 2012

HB 5233, An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation For Firefighters

The Insurance Association of Connecticut (IAC) opposes HB 5233, An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation For Firefighters.

IAC's concerns regarding the restoration of "mental-mental" claims have been outlined to the Labor Committee numerous times since the 1993 reforms.

The 1993 reforms limited the availability of stress related claims to instances caused by a physical injury or occupational disease. Those limitations were properly put in place to prevent the explosion of such claims in Connecticut, as had been experienced in other states. In California stress claims became an epidemic and were as much as 15 percent of the total claims in the system.

Even limited changes to the reforms, as in HB 5233, only invite more reversals of this important provision. The cost of workers' compensation for employers would correspondingly increase due to any such reversal.